THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) and (b) Under the provisions of section 80-1A of Income Tax Act, 1961, infrastructure including roads, highways, bridges, airports, ports, sewerage and rail systems are regarded as infrastructure facility and the enterprises engaged in developing or operating and maintaining or developing, operating and maintaining such infrastructure are entitled to a tax holiday as given below:

(1) Basic infrastructure:— 10 year tax holiday (out of initial 20 years) for roads, highways, rail, sanitation, sewerage, water supply, etc., and 10 year tax holidy (out of initial 15 years) for airport, port, inland port or waterways.

(2) Power Projects:— A ten year tax holiday (out of initial 15 years) instead of two tier benefit made available to undertakings commencing generation of power and new transmission and distribution lines. The benefit has been extended to undertakings, which begin to generate or distribute power before 31/3/2006.

(3) Industrial parks and Special Economic Zones (SEZs):— A ten year tax holiday (out of initial 15 years) instead of two tier benefit made available to developers of Industrial Parks during the period beginning on the 1st day of April, 1997 and ending on the 31st day of March, 2006, has been extended to enterprises developing SEZs also.

Promoter/Developers who have already developed township will be eligible for deductions with regard to profits from such specified basic amenities/ facilities, provided they fulfil the conditions of section 80-1A of the Income tax Act, 1961.

Scheme on Infrastructure Development for exports

4274. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have announced a comprehensive scheme called Assistance to States for Infrastructure Development for Exports' (ASIDE) to provide assistance to the State Governments/Union Territories for the development of infrastructure facilities for exports;

(b) if so, what are the salient feature of the policy;

(c) what is the amount earmarked for the scheme and what would be the basis of entitlement of financial assistance under the above scheme to the State Governments; and

(d) by when, the scheme will be fully implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The salient features of ASIDE include:

(i) Involvement of the State Governments in the development of infrastructure for export promotion.

(ii) Merger of four earlier existing schemes into this scheme.

(c) An amount of Rs. 330 crores has been earmarked for 2002-2003. 80% of the total fund will be provided to the State Governments and the remaining 20% of the fund will remain with Department of Commerce for funding Central Sector and Inter-State projects. out of the 80% funds allocated to State Governments, 50% of the funds will be provided to the States on the basis of their export performance and remaining 50% on the basis of rate of growth of the export over the previous year.

(d) The scheme has been implemented since 2001-02 and the projects under State components and Central components are to be implemented after they are considered and approved by the competent authority.

Bilateral trade with Germany

4275. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of bilateral trade with Germany in the year 2001-2002;

(b) whether it has shown an increase in the trade in comparison to the last fiscal year 2000-2001;

(c) if so, to what extent; and

(d) what target has been fixed for the year 2002-2003?